

ADDITION TO COMBRETACEAE (LAGUNCLURIEAE) FROM AUSTRALIA

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Summary

A new genus *Dansiea* (Combretaceae) and a new species *D. elliptica* from North Queensland, Australia are described.

***Dansiea* N. Byrnes gen. nov.** Lagunculariaceae generi *Macropteranthes* affinis sed habitu arboris, disco bilobo, ovario ad calycem adnato dorsaliter, ovulis pluris. Unica cognita species *D. elliptica* N. Byrnes Australiae tropicae incola.

***Dansiea elliptica* N. Byrnes sp. nov.**

Cook District: State Forest Reserve 310, Goldsborough L.A., 17°15'S 145°45'E, 18 Jan 1978, *B. Hyland* 3657RFK (holotypus BRI 241211; isotypi CANB, K).

Arbor ad 35 m alta. Truncus cortice lamelloso. Folia spiralter disposita vel subopposita elliptica apice apiculata et basi breve attenuata 3–8.5 cm longa 1–3.5 cm lata margine integra glandulosa prope basi primo pubescentia dense appresse glabrescentia; petiolus 0.5–1 cm longus appresse pubescens. Flores axillares ca 2 cm longi; pedunculi ca 1 cm longi. Receptaculum tubularis non distinctum a calyce puberulum bracteolis adnatis persistibus accrescentibus in 5 lobis calyces terminans. Discus bilobus glandi similis. Petala 5 late elliptica apiculata 0.8–1 cm longa pubescentia decidua. Stamina 10, ca 1 cm longa tubi inserta duobus ordinibus filaments interioribus appendiculatis ad basim; antherae sagittatae versatiles. Ovarium pubescens uniloculare ad tubum adnatum dorsaliter: Stylus 8–10 mm longus; Stigma parvum: Ovula 14–20 pendula. Fructus ignoti.

Tree to 35 m tall. Trunk with flaky bark. Leaves spirally arranged or subopposite, elliptical, apiculate at apex, shortly attenuate at the base, 3–8.5 cm long, 1–3.5 cm wide, margins entire with glands near the base, at first densely appressed pubescent, glabrescent. Petioles 0.5–1 cm long, appressed pubescent. Flowers ca 2 cm long borne in the axils on peduncles ca 1 cm long. Receptacle tubular continuous and not distinct from calyx tube, terminating in the 5 calyx lobes, minutely pubescent with two enlarged persistent bracteoles adnate to the lower tube. Disc bilobed and gland-like. Petals 5, broadly elliptical 0.8–1 cm long, deciduous, pubescent. Stamens 10, ca 1 cm long inserted in the tube in two series with small appendages at the base of the filaments of the inner whorl. Anthers sagittate and versatile. Ovary pubescent, unilocular adnate dorsally to the floral tube. Style 8–10 mm long. Stigma small. Ovules 14–20, pendulous. Fruit unknown.

Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: State Forest Reserve 310, Goldsborough L.A., Jan 1979, *Hyland* 3653RFK, 3654RFK, 3655RFK, Dec 1977, *Gray* 815 & Jul 1979, *Hyland* 9956; Goldsborough Rd, Oct 1977, *Dansie* 20135; State Forest Reserve 756, Nov 1963, *Hyland* 556RFK.

Dansiea is a large rainforest tree to 35 m tall and 90 cm diam at breast height. The leaves bear two or more marginal glands and the lateral venation is visible on both surfaces. The glands are open, apparently non-secreting but have numerous cells containing crystals embedded in the tissue. The leaf indumentum consists of compartmented hairs typical of the family. Simple hairs and glandular trichomes are absent.

The flowers are superficially similar to *Macropteranthes* but are usually borne singly in the axils and the ovary is fused to the floral tube on one side only. A bilobed glandlike structure is present on the side of the floral tube opposite the ovary and represents the disc. This species has more ovules than any other member of the family. This new genus is related to the genus *Macropteranthes* which is represented

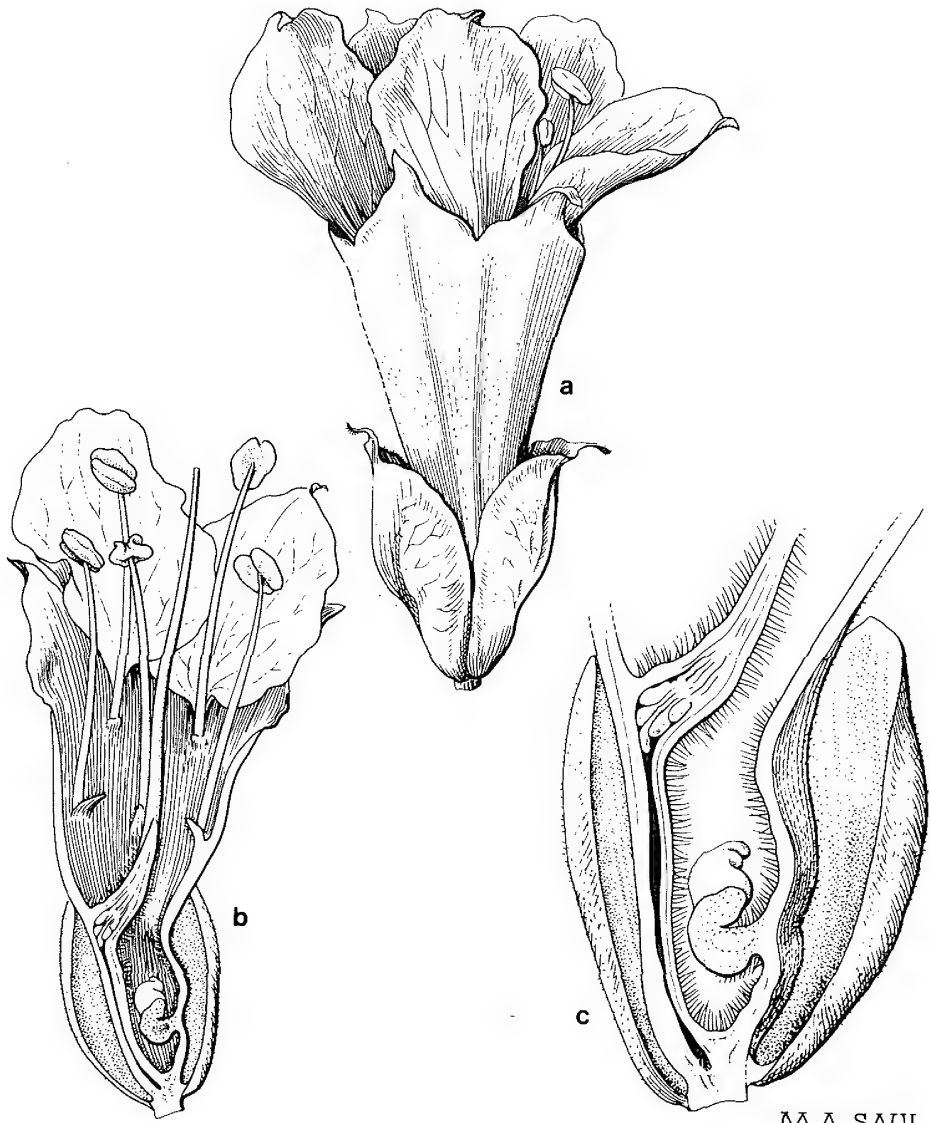


Figure 24. *Dansiea elliptica*. Flower. a. External view. b. Longitudinal section. c. Section of base of floral tube.

by four species in Australia. These species are usually shrubs of the monsoonal areas with long dry winter periods. The flowers are borne in pairs on a common peduncle. The ovary is fused to the floral tube on all sides and the disc is cupular.

The indumentum on the young leaves of the *Dansiea* specimens collected in January is dense but mature leaves collected later in the year tend to be glabrous at least on the upper surface. The specimen (sterile) *Dansie* 20315 is almost completely glabrous retaining hairs on the veins and leaf margin. This reveals the pellucid punctate nature of the lamina that is obscured by the indumentum of the younger leaves. The absence of old and new leaves on the one specimen indicates the species may be deciduous if only for a short period just before the new growth and flowers appear.

This species is restricted in distribution to the rainforests near Mt. Bartle Frere. The species was first brought to attention by Mr S.J. Dansie, Forester and Collector but satisfactory flowering material was not available until collected by Mr. B. Hyland in January, 1978. Difficult weather conditions at the time of flowering contributed to the delay in obtaining adequate fertile material.

References

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